

## Wisconsin 2005 Honey Production Drops 9 Percent

Honey production in Wisconsin during 2005 totaled 5.31 million pounds, a decrease of 9 percent from the 2004 production. Honey producing colonies dropped 4,000 to 64,000 colonies. This number does not include producers with less than five colonies, producers who did not harvest honey, or producers who fed the honey back to the bees. Yield per colony slipped 3 pounds to 83 pounds per colony in 2005. Even with the decrease in production, Wisconsin's rank climbed from ninth place to eighth in the nation for honey production. Wisconsin's reported yield per colony was the eighth highest in the United States.

On December 15, 2005, Wisconsin honey producers held 2.92 million pounds of honey in stocks. A year earlier, 2.63 million pounds were in storage.

Wisconsin's 2005 honey crop was valued at \$6.06 million, down 13 percent from last year's \$6.96 million. Prices averaged \$1.14 per pound, a decrease of 5 cents from the previous year.

Nationally, honey production in 2005 totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. On December 15, 2005, producer honey stocks totaled 62.4 million pounds, an increase of 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices in the U.S. decreased to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from the \$1.07 received in 2004. Honey prices for 2005 were lower than the previous year for all color classes. Honey prices for 2004 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2004 and 2005. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel.

## Honey Production

State	No. of colonies		Production		Average price		Honey stocks Dec. 15 1/	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Thousands		Thous. lbs.		Cents per lb.		Thous. lbs.	
Wisconsin	68	64	5,848	5,312	119	114	2,632	2,922
Arizona	32	36	1,760	1,800	111	97	774	720
Arkansas	40	36	2,280	2,484	86	95	388	571
California	390	400	17,550	30,000	101	84	5,792	9,300
Colorado	23	26	1,840	1,820	135	104	791	837
Florida	205	160	20,090	13,760	100	87	2,009	2,477
Georgia	63	59	3,087	2,891	119	84	648	434
Idaho	100	95	6,300	3,515	99	80	2,520	1,793
Iowa	35	28	2,345	2,464	106	98	1,337	1,232
Louisiana	35	35	3,430	3,395	78	71	240	611
Michigan	65	65	4,355	4,420	114	99	2,439	2,519
Minnesota	135	120	10,125	8,880	104	83	1,924	1,598
Montana	140	130	10,780	8,710	105	80	3,773	3,136
Nebraska	51	40	4,539	2,720	97	89	2,043	2,530
New York	64	60	4,288	4,380	138	122	1,887	2,321
N. Dakota	390	370	30,420	33,670	102	81	9,126	8,418
Oregon	42	39	2,268	1,638	121	108	1,111	557
S. Dakota	215	220	22,575	17,380	100	76	13,545	11,818
Texas	116	84	8,816	5,964	95	85	1,411	954
Washington	56	51	3,528	2,805	98	106	1,376	1,935
Wyoming	39	40	2,925	2,240	107	87	380	291
U.S.	2,556	2,410	183,582	174,643	106.9	90.4	61,222	62,406

1/Stocks held by producers do not include stocks under loan. Source: Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.